



The Washington Connection

Congresswoman **Candice Miller**

<http://candicemiller.house.gov>

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Rep. Miller Announces Two Bills to Improve Michigan's Water

Legislation targets ballast water, wastewater infrastructure issues

Congresswoman Candice Miller recently introduced legislation that would establish a national framework to mitigate the damaging effects of ballast water and invasive species on the Great Lakes. The bill would impose a stringent federal standard for vessels carrying ballast water, requiring that their discharged water meets a standard 10 times more stringent than the one currently set by the International Maritime Organiza-



Rep. Miller reads *Cat in the Hat* to Macomb kindergartners at Fox Elementary School in honor of Read Across America Day

tion (IMO). The bill would also require that all ships entering the U.S. must complete their ballast water exchanges before entering the country.

The regulations would go into effect nationwide in 2010.

"Ballast water from foreign vessels has caused irreparable damage to the Great Lakes through its introduction of inva-

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Rep. Miller Reallocates \$12.6 Million from the Blue Water Bridge Plaza to Grade Separation in Port Huron Township

Congresswoman Miller has announced that through her position on the House Transportation Committee she has successfully worked with her colleagues to reallocate \$12.6 million of the federal funding that she helped secure in 2005 for the Blue Water Bridge plaza project towards the Grade Separation project in Port Huron Township.

She took this action in reaction to the stalling of the Blue Water Bridge Plaza project, and to

ensure that funding for needed projects in the area would not be lost when the current transportation bill is set to expire in 2010.

"In the Transportation Bill which was passed in 2005, I along with our Senators helped secure \$43 million in funding for the Blue Water Bridge plaza project in an effort to help jump start the project and to provide needed jobs in the community," said Miller. "As we have seen in recent weeks and months there is great consternation in the community about how

this project is to go forward and the money that we secured was just sitting there doing nothing to help the project, improve our community or provide much needed jobs. Another concern is that the funding is set to expire in 2010 and construction on the project will not even begin until after the expiration date. I have been greatly concerned that the residents of St. Clair County will lose out on this funding if I did not take action and so I did move this money to a project that is so des-

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Rep. Miller introduces new legislation (Continued...)

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sive species,” Rep. Miller said. “The Great Lakes are an international resource that must be cherished and treasured, and we have a responsibility to protect them and ensure they remain an invaluable resource for our future generations.”

“I am proud that Michigan has been a leader in imposing tougher standards on ballast water, but we stand to lose out economically because other states have not taken the same active approach to cracking down on the invasive species problem,” Rep. Miller continued. “All Great Lakes states have an obligation to preserve the health and pu-

riety of our water, which is why I am proposing a federal standard for vessels carrying ballast water. Michigan should not suffer financially because of its commitment to protecting the environment.”

Rep. Miller also announced that the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, of which she is a member, approved a bill that will allocate over \$20 billion in funding for wastewater infrastructure improvements throughout Michigan and other states. If signed into law, Michigan would receive over \$800 million over 5 years for infrastructure upgrades. This bill marks the first time in 20 years that Congress has taken action to reauthorize funding for wastewater

infrastructure needs.

“Southeast Michigan residents are acutely aware of need of upgrading and rightsizing the underground infrastructure,” Rep. Miller said “We have been subjected to years of beach closures and pollutants in our waterways. Action on this issue was long overdue, and this bill will help communities all over Michigan finally obtain the financial assistance they need upgrade their deteriorating sewer systems.”

H.R. 720 specifically reauthorizes the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) Program to provide low interest loans for clean water pollution control projects.

Rep. Miller Announces Major Developments for Two Macomb Projects

Bridgeview Bridge to receive \$486,400 in federal funds, Macomb Orchard trail to begin construction

Congresswoman Candice Miller recently announced that she has successfully worked with her colleagues on the House Transportation Committee to pave the way for two critical Macomb County projects to move forward with construction.

Rep. Miller was able secure \$486,000 for the Bridgeview Bridge reconstruction in Harrison Township in the SAFETEA-LU Technical Corrections bill of 2007, which was passed today by the Transportation Committee.

This amount had been initially secured by Rep. Miller last year in the FY07 transportation appropriations bill which was passed by the House, but not the Senate. Today Rep. Miller was able to make an adjustment to the 2005 Highway Bill to allow for funds that were appropriated to other regions, but unused, to be transferred to Macomb County to assist with this particular project.

“I am very pleased I was able to use my position on the Transportation Committee to restore this much needed funding for the Bridgeview Bridge,” Rep. Miller said. “I believe this grant will serve as a huge impetus for a project that is of great significance to the community. Reconstruction of Bridgeview has recently taken on added importance as it was determined to be more deteriorated than originally thought, so its reconstruction is imperative.”

“We are very pleased that Congresswoman Miller was able secure these funds for this critical project. The Bridge is a major artery for the township and the area,” Darrin York, Harrison Township Treasurer said.

Rep. Miller was also able to help initiate the stalled Macomb Orchard Trail bike path project by changing language in the 2005 Highway bill that had precluded funds from being utilized by Macomb

County Road Commission.

“The bike path is going to provide a tremendous boost in the quality of life residents of Macomb County,” Rep. Miller said. “I’ve been a strong supporter of the Macomb Orchard Trail since its inception and previously secured \$3.2 million for the project. This additional \$400,000 will allow the construction to continue between Riverbend Park at 22 mile south to the City of Utica.”

“Congresswoman Miller continues to show her sensitivity to the environment and help meet the needs of recreation in Southeastern Michigan,” Skip Macarrone, Shelby Township Supervisor said. “We appreciate her assistance with this project.”

The SAFETEA-LU Technical Corrections bill be ratified by the whole House of Representatives this month and then will go to the Senate for concurrence.

Rep. Miller Urges President to Invest in New Auto Technologies

Speech below is a reaction to his proposed energy policy proposed in the State of the Union Address

“Madame Speaker, recently we heard the President announce his agenda for making America more energy independent.

But the question comes as to how we get there.

The President laid out a plan to place new draconian new fuel efficiency standards on our domestic automakers that I believe are the wrong approach to energy independence.

It is the wrong approach because it would force our domestic auto makers to invest in the old technology and stifle exciting new technologies.

Our domestic auto industry is nearing innovative breakthroughs such as the usage of alternative fuels, exciting new battery technology and advanced hybrid vehicles.

I believe it is in our national interest to provide federal support to advance the auto technologies of the future to help achieve energy savings.

Both General Motors and Ford recently unveiled advanced plug-in hybrids that use

a lithium ion battery.

These vehicles can be driven up to 70 miles a day without the gasoline engine being used. And when driving cross country a 12 gallon tank of gas could take a motorist nearly 600 miles.

Helping that technology become commercially viable will advance our efforts to conserve energy by light years and create great new jobs here in America. Forcing old technology will only prolong the process and destroy more American jobs.

If my colleagues want true energy independence and a thriving domestic auto industry we must focus on the technology of future.

To watch her speech online, visit her website at candicemiller.house.gov and click on ‘Videos’.



Rep. Miller examines the new Chevy Volt, which runs on a lithium ion battery and can be plugged into an outlet to be recharged. The car will hit the market in 2009.

Rep. Miller to Co-Chair Congressional boating Caucus

Rep. Candice Miller today announced she has been appointed Co-Chairman of the 125 member Congressional Boating Caucus. The other Co-Chair is Congressman Gene Taylor of Mississippi.

The Congressional Boating Caucus is a bipartisan group that represents and articulates the needs of the recreational marine industry. Their mission is to improve the economic viability of the industry, protect the environment, and promote boating safety.

“Having grown up in the marine industry, I knew as soon as I took office that I would join the Congressional Boating Caucus,” Rep. Miller said. “This is a group that works in a

bipartisan manner to promote the marine industry and to expose more people to the joys of being on the water, and I look forward advancing this agenda as Co-Chairman.

“I am committed to working with the other Co-Chair, Congressman Taylor from Mississippi, to raise awareness of all boating-related issues, from clean water to manufacturing to boating safety. It is real joy to be able to combine my lifelong passion for boating with my career in public service.”

“Congresswomen Miller has an in-depth understanding of the recreational boating industry and is an active sailor,” Van Snider, President of the Michigan Boating Industries Association (MBIA) said. “The district she represents has a

heavy concentration of marine businesses as well as avid boaters. She is uniquely qualified to chair the Congressional Boating Caucus and the boating industry in Michigan is honored that she was accepted this important congressional position. We look forward to working with her on important issues which will serve to enhance boating throughout the nation as well as within Michigan.”





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Washington Connection Weekly



This Month's Radio Addresses:

- **Minimum Wage Increase**
- **Rep. Miller's Ballast Water Legislation**
- **Investing in New Auto Technology**
- **Infrastructure Upgrades for Michigan**



Rep. Miller reallocates funds towards Grade Separation (Continued...)

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perately needed by the community.

"Since my election to Congress in 2002 local officials have been coming to me expressing the importance of the grade separation project from a public safety perspective and the quality of life of our residents," Miller continued. "Too many of our citizens have had their lives disrupted by interminable waits while trains block the roadway and first responders have had a difficult time responding to emergencies while the roads are blocked for up to seven hours a day. We had been successful previously in securing \$400,000 to get the project started but the remainder of the needed money was simply unavailable. Now we are started down the road to where funding to complete the entire project could be available this year."

"As County Sheriff I have worked for years to try and impress upon our legislative leaders the importance of this project

for our community from a public safety perspective," said St. Clair County Sheriff Dan Lane. "Congresswoman Miller has heard our message and has been fighting for the funding we need to better protect our community. This action she has taken today is simply an incredible leap forward in that effort and I thank her for strong and bold leadership."

"It's a great day for Port Huron Township," said Port Huron Township Supervisor Scott Beedon. "Our residents will finally be able to travel within our community and never worry about a train! Our Emergency responders have won as well. With Rep. Miller's vision and help we will be able to respond to our residents in a much more timely fashion. I'm thrilled to hear this is going to happen!"

"I believe moving money to this project is a huge win for residents of the Bluewater area. It solves a pressing public safety issue, improves the quality of life for our

residents and will provide many needed jobs for workers in our community. It is in my opinion a far better use of resources than having money sitting doing nothing or simply being used purchase property which would stand deserted for years waiting for the plaza project to move forward and adding nothing to the economy. That situation is simply unacceptable which is why I decided to take action," Miller concluded.

The funding reallocation, which is included in the SAFETEA-LU Technical Corrections Act of 2007, was approved today by the House Transportation Committee. It will now go before the whole House of Representatives for a vote and then to the Senate for concurrence.

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